

# THE MCGILL DAILY

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Playing with balls since 1911

Monday, November 11, 1991

## Students challenge Redmen moniker

by Michael Newman

A group on campus is trying to change the name of McGill's Redmen, in the wake of the controversy surrounding last month's World Series.

Ned Blackhawk, organiser of the McGill Native Awareness Coalition (NAC), believes naming teams after First Nations enforces a cultural stereotype.

"The name 'Redmen' was conceived by people who wanted to be warrior-like," he said. "The history of native people is not a pretty story. 'Redmen' ignores this and pokes fun at native culture."

"Redmen" is not meant to be offensive," said McGill athletics department publications and communications officer Earl Zuckerman. "We have a native on the football team and he doesn't find it offensive."

Blackhawk feels First Nations peoples are alienated by the term Redmen. "'Redmen' makes it difficult for such a small group of native students to fit in at McGill," said Blackhawk.

According to Zuckerman, the name originated from the colour of their team sweaters. The name took on "native" implications in the late 1960s, when McGill adopted the present logo, a First Nations man wearing a traditional head-dress.

Zuckerman says one might find the logo offensive, not the name Redmen.

But Blackhawk, a member of the Shoshone Nation, feels that names like "Redmen" are especially denegrating because they stereotype First Nations people. "The names push all different traditions together and homogenise them," he said.

Five American major league sports teams still use similar names; baseball's Braves and Cleveland Indians, football's Kansas City Chiefs and Washington Redskins, and hockey's Chicago Blackhawks. Many universities in the U.S. have "native" names, but McGill is the only Canadian one.

The origin of teams having First Nations names involves the idea that "native" people are relentless savages who run about in feathered



DAILY PHOTO: KATERINA CIZEK

attire, ruthlessly killing their adversaries, said Blackhawk. These qualities were felt to be desirable in sports teams.

During this fall's major league baseball championship, Minnesota First Nation groups protested the name of Atlanta's team, the "Braves". They criticised the Braves' fans' new ritual, the "tomahawk chop", saying it trivializes and denigrates native culture and tradition.

During the World Series, fans in Atlanta danced around Fulton

County Stadium clad in feathered suits, waving styrofoam tomahawks in mock ritual and "praying" for the Braves to win baseball games. Scores of native American leaders spoke out, saying this demonstration belittles native culture, and makes a mockery of native religion.

In the October 28 issue of *Sports Illustrated*, Rick Reilly suggested naming teams "Braves" or "Redmen" is equivalent to naming them "Negroes" or "Spics."

McGill Redmen fans have been

known to chant "give some Redmen powa", says Blackhawk, who feels the chant is also offensive because the chant supposedly attempts to imitate native speech.

Due to pressure from native rights groups, some American high schools and universities have changed their "native" names. Most of these changes have occurred in states with high native populations, such as Michigan and Minnesota.

In 1972, Stanford College, in California, changed its name from

Indians to Cardinals, due to pressure from civil rights groups. Eastern Michigan University recently changed their name from Hurons to Eagles, and the Western Michigan University Chippewas are due to change theirs next year.

McGill football coach Charlie Bailie said that he does not find Redmen offensive. However, said Bailie, "The athletics department would consider changing the name if there was widespread concern."

## Low wages, long tours

## Orchestra members playing the blues

By Dave Ley

Montréal symphony players say they are overworked and underpaid despite having signed a new contract with the city last month.

"The new contract does not address the biggest problems," said Bruce Bauer, bassonist and member of the negotiating committee for the players.

Bauer said management of the Montréal Symphonic Orchestra (MSO) did not address "the salary issue" in contract negotiations.

"Traditionally we had always

had parity with the Toronto Symphony," said Bauer. "To achieve that now, we'd have to increase our pay by 24 per cent."

The one-year contract signed in October gave players a two per cent increase for the first half of this year's musical season, followed by a four per cent increase for the second half.

Bauer also complained about the intensive performance and recording schedule the symphony was expected to follow.

"We leave for Japan this spring. When we come back, we have our regular concert series, then we'll do enough recording for five or six compact discs, and then there's a month long tour of Europe," he said.

"In all that, we only have three days of rest."

"This causes a lot of strain," Bauer added, "we've had a number of physical injuries this year already."

The musicians decided not to take action over their concerns until the contract expires next summer. "We wanted to avert a strike because we recognized the financial difficulty of the symphony right now," said Bauer.

MSO officials would not com-

ment on the new contract with the orchestra's musicians.

McGill music student Marc Joansse said the MSO was an "excellent, top-notch orchestra" in a steep decline because of its low wages for musicians.

"They're not paying their players enough and so it's difficult to attract big musicians," he said. "As a place for [classical] music, Montréal is going downhill."

Bauer complained about the lack of funding allotted by the city to the symphony. "It's a disgrace that they can come up with \$45 million for a second-rate baseball team, yet when a world-class organization like the MSO is short of money, we can't find any."

"For all the touring we do, we are Montréal's musical ambassadors to the world, yet the city hardly gives us a dime."

The symphony has an impressive performance schedule planned for this year. Highlights for this year's season include a performance of Mozart's Requiem, a visit by the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra, and a celebration of Honegger's 100th anniversary. They will also perform a variety of symphonies, concertos, and choral works.

## Elections get results

Student Society's health insurance plan was approved by students last week in a campus-wide referendum.

Roughly three quarters of the voting students (1724) were in favour of the plan while one quarter (629) voted against it. Of 22 356 eligible voters, only 2506 students cast ballots, but the number of voters exceeded the 10 per cent necessary for quorum.

The plan will be installed next January. It covers drugs, accidents and minimal travel insurance. Students will be able to claim as much as \$2 500 per year in pharmaceutical costs.

Jeffrey Perry won the position of Member at Large in the Arts and Science Undergraduate Society (ASUS) by-election by a 30 vote margin.

by Robin LeBaron



PHOTO COURTESY MONTREAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Charles Dutoit may soon be waving his baton at empty chairs



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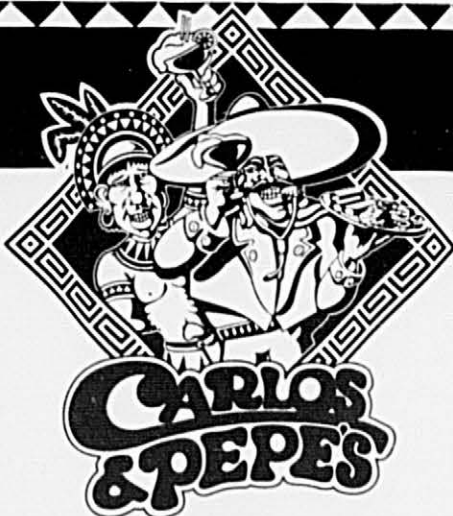
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## Thousands huddle in McGill tax shelter

# Intellectual property for rent

by Neelam Sandhu

Researchers on the campus stand to gain over \$30 million from McGill's most recent revenue-generating plan. But some people question whether the deal will change the face of the university.

McGill administrators have taken advantage of provincial tax credits for investments in research to raise almost \$100 million from the public sector. Over \$30 million of these funds will return to McGill.

In the scheme, private investors use their own funds and bank loans to buy shares in Martlet R&D Investments Inc, a technology transfer company which makes money from developing and selling technology. Investors in Martlet Inc. receive tax write-offs in return.

A recent change in Quebec tax legislation making the undertaking of such deals more difficult rushed McGill's administration into the stock scheme.

"As a result of the tax changes we believed that it would be advantageous to the university to investigate this type of funding for research," said VP Graduate studies and research Roger Pritchard.

The contract formalizing the deal was signed in July. In August investment money was directed towards 35 of McGill's ongoing research projects.

The provincial law did not in-

clude tax breaks for funding directed towards Humanities and Social Sciences research projects. During Senate discussions several members suggested the

would deposit \$4.5 million in the university's central budget. A fraction of this sum would be directed to the Arts faculty.

Professor Sam Noumoff sug-

"Those who control the agenda control the research. We were confined to funding projects that had the possibility of producing useful advances in science and



Roger Pritchard is McGill's Vice-Principal of Research and the Dean of Graduate Studies. He is also the mind behind an interesting tax write-off. Check how much is left over from your student loan, perhaps you can buy in too.

project could tilt the university towards supporting faculties with marketable research.

Professor David Williams said the emphasis on private funding could result in redistributing the university's resources away from humanities and social sciences. "There is a danger in allowing the University to be driven by factors totally external to the University," said Williams.

Williams questioned whether money acquired by stock scheme would be redirected internally towards humanities and social science faculties.

Pritchard said the scheme

gested the university administration gave only token attention to humanities and social sciences. He said the deal will eventually encourage researchers to conform to the agendas of private funders.

Pritchard disagreed. "I feel that the university should have a balance between basic and applied research," he said. "This balance depends on the discipline involved. The choice must be left to individual researchers as a matter of academic freedom."

But Pritchard said only projects with a commercial viability were selected to participate in the scheme.

some commercial utility," said Pritchard.

Included in the projects are a micro-robot being developed for micro operations in the eye, a computer system which will assist in making medical decisions during labour, and developing new reusable plastics.

The deal was welcomed by some researchers and students.

"We need the backing of industry to put our ideas into product," said Plant Science post-doctoral fellow Steve Hallett. "The research is definitely product-oriented but it also answers a lot of other biological questions."

## COUNCIL BRIEFS

### A Purloining Letter

Students' Society president Scott Mitic criticized McGill's latest proposal for a new letter of agreement between the university and Students' Society. Mitic said the university's proposal would decrease Student Society's autonomy.

Both the university and Students' Society admit the present letter of agreement has been disregarded since last December when Students' Society dismissed Don McGarrigle.

The university's proposed letter of agreement begins with the assumption that Students' Society will eventually incorporate. At present a Students' Society committee is studying the benefits and drawbacks of incorporation, but has not reached a decision. A report drafted by a council committee last year recommended Students' Society not incorporate in the near future.

### Partnership with devils

Nicolas Plourde, president of the La Fédération Etudiante Universitaire du Québec (FEUQ) spoke before council last Thursday. Plourde defended FEUQ's policy of indexing tuition rates with the cost of living index.

Plourde said indexing tuition fees with the cost of living was a lesser of two evils. He said the government's alternative might be to index tuition to increases in university costs. University costs are rising more quickly than the cost of living, said Plourde.

He said opposing all increases in tuition fees was not a viable strategy. "We did everything we could do at the time [of the dégel]," he said. "We lost that battle, and we knew we wouldn't be able to mobilize students against indexation."

Other councillors questioned the decision. Arts rep Chantal Thomas said FEUQ's attempts to work in partnership with government and business could jeopardize students interests.

"If we take position that gives ground to other groups with interests diametrically opposed to us, we may be weakening our position," Thomas said.

Architecture rep David Gruber questioned indexing tuition fees with cost of living when students' seasonal and part-time earnings may not rise as quickly as living expenses.

### Students to pay for jobs

Federal funding for the Canada Employment Center could disappear in the next three years, said Students' Society president Scott Mitic. Students will have the option of funding the Centre themselves with a \$7 fee or replacing it with alternative employment services.

### Buhkman to study irregular verbs

Students' Society VP Finance Lev Buhkman announced he would immediately enroll in French language courses. Buhkman had previously refused to take French language courses. Student Society executive members are required to attempt to improve their French during their term in office.

Students' Society may soon adopt general bilingual policies. A committee is currently reviewing information on other similar policies and is expected to present a motion next council meeting.

Robin LeBaron

## Referendum delayed

# ASUS vote postponed till January

by Sara Robson

Arts and Science students will wait until next semester to vote on the break-up of their joint undergraduate student association.

Although the referendum was supposed to have taken place last week, Science council members backed out last month.

The referendum was proposed to the Arts and Science Undergraduate Society (ASUS) early this term. But Science council members said they needed more time to formulate a suitable con-

stitution for an independent Science students' association.

VP Science John Theodoropoulos said the constitution was too important a task for the new and inexperienced Science council. "It was a problem of being pressured into the schedule."

He added that the Science council expects to have finished the new constitution before the end of this semester.

However, deciding on a date for the referendum on ASUS's future remains a problem for

ASUS members. If held alongside the March ASUS elections, the referendum's outcome would not take effect until September 1993. But if the referendum is held before the ASUS elections, students could elect separate Science and Arts councils for next September.

"We're hoping to have the referendum in January," said ASUS VP Arts Eddie Look, "but there is a dilemma about the costs." He said last week's SSMU referendum on the health plan cost "approximately \$10 000," and if ASUS takes their issue to referen-

dum in January it could be equally expensive. A joint referendum and election in March would save ASUS a lot of money, said Look.

ASUS president Shawn Kahn said revenues from the Arts and Science cafeteria will be "a concern" in further negotiations for separate faculty associations. However, Arts and Science reps have tentatively agreed on splitting cafeteria revenues on a per capita basis for each faculty.

ASUS currently represents 5500 Arts students and 2500 Science students.



# THE MCGILL DAILY

## COMMENT

### Technology's the answer. What's the Question?

Hitchhike to the further reaches of many "civilized" countries and you'll run into earth grubbers who have "returned to the land," deliberately eschewing many of the trappings of the industrial age. Who are these Luddites that would have us all huddling around a fire in a cave? Why do they appear so opposed to human advancement, to technology? Their criticisms aren't totally absurd. Technology doesn't exist in a vacuum, but reflects judgements and values. It should reflect the values of those that use it not just those who control it.

Applying technology means identifying a problem, setting criteria to define the problem and choosing the tool to solve the problem. What we see in the world today is a perversion of this process.

When we identify a problem, we need to ask if it is actually a *real* problem and if so, does it really need a "solution"? Do we really need fast food, genital deodorant, electric tooth brushes, or whiter than white clothes? Do we really need more useless stuff?

It's absurd to develop a technology first and create a demand for it later. Technology should be a response. The criteria by which we choose our technology must also be debated. Nuclear energy was originally developed by the military, and viewed as a technology of amazing potential. But the military's main concern is destructive potential.

Obviously the values of military development aren't the same as those of domestic development. By the standards the average householder is likely to use, nuclear energy is costly, inefficient, and hazardous. It is similar to using a howitzer to hammer a nail. Nuclear energy just isn't a reasonable solution to domestic needs like lighting our houses.

Biotechnology is questionable for similar reasons. Who is establishing the standards that leads to research in herbicide resistant plants? We need to ask if mono-culture farming is really the best way to produce our food. Many of the costs of conventional agri-business are obscured by the low values given to ecological and social issues. And transportation is a real problem, but automobiles are not the best solution. They serve petroleum companies needs more often than it serves our own.

Humans are ill-equipped, physically, to survive. Our technology compensates for this and has proven to be evolutionarily successful... so far.

Unfortunately there seems to be a mystique within our society that technology can answer all our needs. Technology doesn't answer our needs. We must answer our own needs by selecting the right tool to do the job.

Eric Smiley

## LETTERS

### Library Inefficient

To the Daily:

I have a question. Why cannot books borrowed from the libraries simply be stamped with the due date in their backs as before? I thought the point of the recent, and very expensive, library reorganization was to make the system more convenient and efficient; instead, with respect to circulation, I find it much less so.

Now when taking out several books, a ream of due date information, generated on computer print-out, is hastily folded and slipped into one of the books. More often than not, I find this has slipped out by the time I want to check when a certain book is due. Even more typically, when several books for several courses are taken out on several different occasions, figuring out which book is due when (especially once the print-outs have been lost) becomes somewhat less than a convenience.

As for efficiency, what is the purpose of these slips? All the information contained on these new slips is

redundant if the books were just to be stamped with due dates in the backs. The library from which the book originates, its title, author, and call number are already printed in the book. Just give me the due date stamped in the back and save me all the excessive information and glitz. Not only is this a bother, it's a waste of time and paper.

The circulation department tells me an average of 30 000 of these slips are issued every day. I've been told that these slips are helpful for renewals and eliminating human error at the circulation desk, but is renewing so difficult or human error so prevalent without these slips as to justify 30 000 of them to be issued every single day? I think not. The old stamped due date slips used much less paper and could be used over 30 times each. I suggest we have enough information overload and irrational computerization to contend with as it is. Let us, then, reevaluate this inconvenient and inefficient process.

Todd Wilkinson  
U3 Sociology



### Coverage Unfair

To the Daily:

Following three days of non-stop, one-sided Palestinian rhetoric on campus I feel compelled to publicly protest. McGill students have been bombarded both by the *Daily* and by a day long "cultural" exhibition right out of the PLO's main library.

On Monday the week got off to a flying start with three articles written by members of McGill's Palestine Solidarity Committee. Two of the articles, written by Ania Kazi, were given an entire page by the *Daily's* editors. These compelling articles couldn't of been further from the facts. Yet the Palestinian version of the truth survived

the editor's axe and was splashed across the pages of the *Daily*.

I find it important to point out that an article in Monday's *Daily* on a Hillel activity which saw to students gather at 3:30 A.M. in solidarity with the Israeli delegation in Madrid received such horrible press. I guess I had better not

Continued on page 5

## HYDE PARK

### Redmen name exacerbates racist images

— Opinion of Ned Blackhawk, member of the Native Awareness Coalition.

The newly established Native Awareness Coalition (NAC) at McGill is attempting to raise Native awareness on campus and to dispel existing misperceptions of Natives. We consist primarily of McGill students, several of whom are Natives, and are encouraged by McGill's growing commitment to cultural diversity. As an underrepresented minority faced with unequal opportunities, Natives have had little impact on the McGill community. Yet, despite the existing difficulties of a small Native community, entrenched ignorant misperceptions, and a general apathy towards Native issues, we at the NAC believe that a growing interest in Native issues is necessary at McGill. We want to encourage the McGill community to embrace Native awareness and discard existing stereotypes, the most blatant of which is the use of the name *Redmen*.

The name *Redmen* and its accompanying logo of a stereotypical Native greatly misrepresents all Natives. It portrays us as aggressive, mean, warlike, in essence as "savages." The bright red skin, the protruding forehead, and angry visage reinforce this racist image. To represent entire cultures, all with their own traditions, languages, and customs, under one image remains fundamentally ignorant. Compounding upon this ignorance, the use of stereotypes reinforces existing misperceptions and exacerbates racist images. These images not only remain ignorant to existing cultural distinctions

but also ignore the devastation wrought upon Natives by previous cultural impositions. It basically re-enforces the historical notion that Natives are inferior and that their cultures do not merit acceptance.

More concretely, the effects of such ignorance merely prohibits opportunities for Natives. At McGill, Natives form a small minority, as many of us simply want to peacefully co-exist with other culturally diverse groups. Yet, the misperceptions we encounter inevitably restrict our own personal experiences, as we psychologically suffer seeing our entire experiences and cultures misrepresented in one simple name and logo: *Redmen*.

Many of us have grown hardened and indifferent to such ignorance, but this does not account for our sufferings, as we remain the only group within society that still experiences such blatant racism. "Negro" is no longer an acceptable name for African-Americans, but "Indian", yet alone *Redmen*, still persists. Although numerous racist images of Natives persist, from the Atlanta Braves to the Washington Redskins, we believe that this does not justify or rationalize continued racism, especially at an academic institution committed to cultural diversity in a pluralistic society. Every minority experiences some persecution, from police brutality to wayward glances, yet every form of racism remains founded on the basic assumption that one culture remains inferior to another. *Redman* is simply one of many cultural impositions. People should try to understand others and never cast entire cultures into generalized categories. *Redmen we are not.*

The NAC meets every Friday at 16h30 in Leacock 721.



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## SENATE BRIEFS

## McGill to turn a profit

McGill Vice-Principal John Armor presented this year's \$213.4 million university budget at Senate Wednesday. Armor predicted a budget surplus of \$3.2 million after interest payments are paid on the university's \$79 million debt. If McGill does run a surplus this year, it would be the first in a decade.

Armor also announced that the provincial government had finally stopped underfunding McGill relative to other Québec universities. The government's move ended a decade-long policy of proportionately low funding for McGill.

## Profs' ratings may go public

VP University Affairs Rosalind Ward-Smith presented a motion to allow students access to the results of course evaluations.

McGill currently asks students to fill out course evaluation forms at the end of each semester. Individual departments decide which parts of the evaluation are made public and which remain confidential. The faculties of Law, Management allow students access to their course evaluation results but many Arts and Science departments do not.

The resolution demands that all results be made available to students. It will be voted upon at the November 20 Senate meeting.

A Students' Society document submitted to Senate explained the proposal follows the university's commitment to give students the best possible information about their courses, as stipulated in *The Handbook on Student Rights and Responsibilities*.

## Remembering December 6

Senate unanimously institutionalized several measures to commemorate the murder of 14 women at l'École Polytechnique two years ago.

The university will hold a moment of silence on the last day of fall semester classes in memory of the massacre. The university will ring the class bell at 10:37 am to initiate the silence and again at 10:38 to conclude it. McGill will also lower its flags to half-mast each year on December 6th.

"These measures represent a general feeling among McGill students that the sheer brutality of the incident can never be forgotten," Students' Society VP University Affairs Rosalind Ward-Smith said.

Ward-Smith introduced the motion to Senate. The proposal had been drafted by several members of the Students' Society Executive, the Post Graduate Students' Society and various campus student organisations including Walksafe Network and Québec-PIRG.

## Recognizing our love of industry

The Senate nominating committee recommended forming an advisory committee to help develop policies to deal with the private sector.

It was noted that during Senate's debate that the university was diverting its emphasis from public to private sector funding. Establishing the advisory committee reflects this shift, several Senate members commented.

Senate postponed organising the committee until details of its membership could be worked out by the nominating committee.

## LETTERS

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complain, I should be happy that got any coverage at all.

Finally, came Wednesday's comments by *Daily* editor Alex Roslin. To even insinuate that Israel gets favourable press coverage is wrong. Yes Israel may consistently appear on the front pages of the world's major newspapers, but I assure you Mr. Roslin, the coverage has been all but good. And for you to forcefully take up the cause of the "friendless" Palestinians as Bruce Fudge, another *Daily* contributor from the Palestinian Solidarity Committee, called them in his full page article in the October 17 issue, at the expense of the State of Israel is unacceptable. It is time for the *Daily* and its editorial board to portray Israel and the Middle Eastern politics in a more open and unbiased light.

Having Palestinians barrage the *Daily* with articles, and then backing them up, without any mention of the Israeli view is simply unfair and cannot continue.

Howard Liebman  
U1 Eng.

## Blood drive was homophobic

To the Daily:

I am writing in response to Cynthia Benjamin's October 28th Hyde Park, in which she implored McGill blood drive. This is why, Ms. Benjamin, I declined to try to give blood this year.

Two years ago, I went to the McGill blood drive. One of the questions used in the screening process asked something like, "do you live in a major

North American city?" Of course every student at McGill would have to answer yes. When I answered affirmatively, a nurse took me aside and asked if any of my male partners were homosexual. I answered that I couldn't possibly know whether or not the men I had slept with had slept with other men. She told me I couldn't give blood. She never asked me whether or not I used condoms.

There is a question in the screening process that asks men whether they've had homosexual "contact" with a man since 1977. My friend was refused because he wasn't asked what type of "contact" he had experienced, nor was he asked whether or not he practices safe sex. By this process, a man may be refused for having kissed another man, while a woman who has unprotected sex with a man may donate.

I do not know what the donor screening process is like now, but my experience in 1989 was very discouraging. The screening process functions to classify people into different inadequate "risk categories" without considering what constitutes safe sexual practices.

There are many other objections to be raised in response to the questions in the screening process, and I believe this subject demands a more complete critique. I just want you to know Ms. Benjamin, that it is not only apathy that prevents students from donating to this very worthy cause.

Rebecca A Levi,  
U3 Arts

## Group puts the heat on cops

by Renato Sogueco

It has been a year since high school student Paul McKinnon was accidentally killed by a speeding police car that had just passed through a red light.

Since the incident, residents of Notre-Dame de Grace (NDG) have

The driver, police officer Serge Markovic, was suspended three days without pay by a Montréal Urban Community (MUC) police internal disciplinary committee. Also, Markovic's conduct during the incident is currently being investigated by the Québec police's ethics commission.

through the light. But if it's a real emergency call, then you go through the light with caution. I'm not saying accidents have never taken place, but we stick to the directive."

Epps said watch-dog groups such as HEAT are unnecessary to monitor police activity.

"Any citizen that sees a police car, taxi or anything they feel as a danger has the right to report this to the police," said Epps.

City Councillor for Snowdon, Marvin Rotrand, agreed with the overall concept of HEAT. "Communities need to be educated and sensitized to a danger in their midst: speeding emergency vehicles," said Rotrand. "HEAT provides the community with information relating to this problem."

Rotrand said high speed chases of fleeing vehicles are unnecessary and should be banned. The social costs are too high and there are other techniques of apprehending suspects, he said.

"Generally it has been found that people [police and suspects] involved in high speed escapes are involved in minor traffic violations," said Rotrand. "It is not worth the possibility of someone getting killed just to give them a ticket."

For more information about HEAT or ANPAT (Aider NOUS Prevenir d'autre Tragedie) write to: HEAT/ANPAT 4855 Hampton Av. Montreal, PQ H3X 3P8



DAILY PHOTO: LAUREL HUGHES

become increasingly critical of police negligence. Friends and relatives of Paul McKinnon have recently banded together to form Help End Avoidable Tragedies (HEAT).

According to Paul's father and HEAT founder, Wayne McKinnon, HEAT was founded to raise awareness in NDG of general problems with the police. He said that so far, the group's efforts have been successful.

"The police in the NDG area are much more cognizant of what they are doing," said McKinnon. "They are being bombarded by people calling up the station and giving them hell whenever they do something stupid."

HEAT members hope to change police vehicle policy which allows police to disregard stop signs and intersections while in pursuit of felons.

"Every year they're killing and injuring a number of people. One of the things [we want] is to have police stop at stop signs and intersections," said McKinnon.

But Station 15 crime prevention officer Ronald Epps said stopping at red lights is an essential police procedure.

"We're supposed to be within the law when we drive patrol cars," Epps said. "When a police car goes through a red light, we're supposed to slow down, stop, and then go

## HYDE PARK

## What kind of city should we build?

— Opinion By QPIRG Housing Project

In 1987, the City of Montréal entered into negotiations with a property development corporation to arrange a residential "redevelopment" project in a small area of southwestern inner-city Montréal. Overdale at that time was a neighbourhood of predominantly older buildings, inhabited by students and other low-income households who were attracted by affordable rents and proximity to downtown.

The dramatic struggle over Overdale was well publicized in the media. The City maintained that "redevelopment" was necessary for jobs and tax dollars, and argued that as long as residents were relocated fairly, there was no need to withhold permission for the project. The resident argued vocally that neither City nor developer had any right to turn their community into a commodity to be bought and sold to the highest bidder, at their expense. The developers, on the other hand, took a predictable stance, saying that it was the responsibility of government to support the invisible hand of the housing market (which in this case was building a \$100 million condo project), and the responsibility of tenants to submit to developers' decisions (couched in the language of "supply and demand"). Some tenants were evicted only after a police SWAT team was called in to haul them out the saga has continued more recently with the seizure by the City of \$200 000 put down by the developer to guarantee the project.

However, the ejection of tenants at Overdale for a corporate redevelopment project was merely a dramatic example of something which happens all of the time in cities all over North America and Europe. Low and moderate-income families, already marginalized by economic and social forces which create and perpetuate poverty, find their ability to meet basic needs jeopardized

by rising housing costs and "colonization" of neighbourhoods by gentrification and urban "revitalization."

At the end of 1990, the City of Montréal produced its downtown Master Plan which highlighted the ambivalent position of governments to these negative effects of urban revitalization. While recognizing the need for vibrant neighbourhoods and affordable housing, the Master Plan focused also on the needs of Montréal as Corporate City and World City, and planned for expansion of office space and of housing and services for an urban middle class who work in this corporate milieu. Overdale was an extreme example of the effects of this expansion, but nonetheless representative of the tensions between growth and social justice in downtown redevelopment.

A number of questions are raised by Overdale and by the broader process which it represented. Whose interests are best served by property speculation, condominium conversion, secret negotiations with public authorities, and forced ejection of tenants — and why are those interests prioritized over others? Why are those interests reinforced by the ideology of "the free market" and "administrative professionalism" in housing and urban development policy? What kind of city would we build, and what kind of processes would we use to build it, if we were committed to social justice, cultural diversity and tolerance, and economic and political democracy?

Québec PIRG's Housing Project brings students together to provide a forum for the discussion of these questions, and to plan strategies for action.

They are sponsoring a panel discussion "Overdale Then and Now: Perspectives on MCM Housing Policy," with a showing of the film "Overdale" by Robert Craig. The event takes place Monday, November 11, 1991, at 7:00 pm, in Leacock 232. For more information, contact QPIRG at 398-7432.



# Bégin dissects medicine's treatment of women

**I**f you think that once you have seen the backside of one female, you have seen them all, then you haven't sat in a sidewalk cafe in Italy where girl watching is a cultivated art. Your authors, whose zeal in this regard never flags, refer you to Figures III-50 and III-53 as proof that female backs can keep an interest in anatomy alive.

— *The Anatomical Basis of Medical Practice*  
by R Becker, J Wilson, and J Gehweiler.

by Fiona McCaw

The picture and the text are from a 1971 anatomy textbook, initially used as a reference by several North American medical schools. Because it uses playboy-style photographs and blatantly sexist language, it is no longer course material. But it is still on the shelves of university libraries, including the Health Sciences Library at McGill.

According to Monique Bégin, this is just one example of the sexism that continues to pervade the medical profession.

Last Wednesday, Bégin gave a lecture entitled "Women: Inside-out Men?" She called for the medical profession to concentrate on addressing women's needs.

Bégin was the federal Minister of Health and Welfare for seven years in the Trudeau cabinet, and currently teaches in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Ottawa. Two weeks ago, she received an honorary degree from McGill University.

Bégin said that critiques of the health care system have been directed by women outside the medical profession. But within the profession such criticism is largely absent.

"What is lacking is an extended study of women in health care done from within medical sciences," said Bégin.

Bégin mentioned several problems with the treatment of women in the medical system including "the over-medicalization of birth."

Examples of over-medicalization include an increase in the number of pregnancies termed "high-risk" by physicians, an increase in the number of caesarean sections, and the routine use of two ultrasound scans per pregnancy "although the basis of this is not clear," according to Bégin.

Bégin also cited instances in teaching hospitals where doctors choose to perform induced labour because they want to practice their techniques.

The rate at which hysterectomies are performed is also too high, said Bégin. "Half of the hysterectomies done are unnecessary."

"Lots of women have negative stories about things that happen to them when they are in obstetrical and gynaecological care," Bégin said. The stories are called "unrepresentative and anecdotal" and are

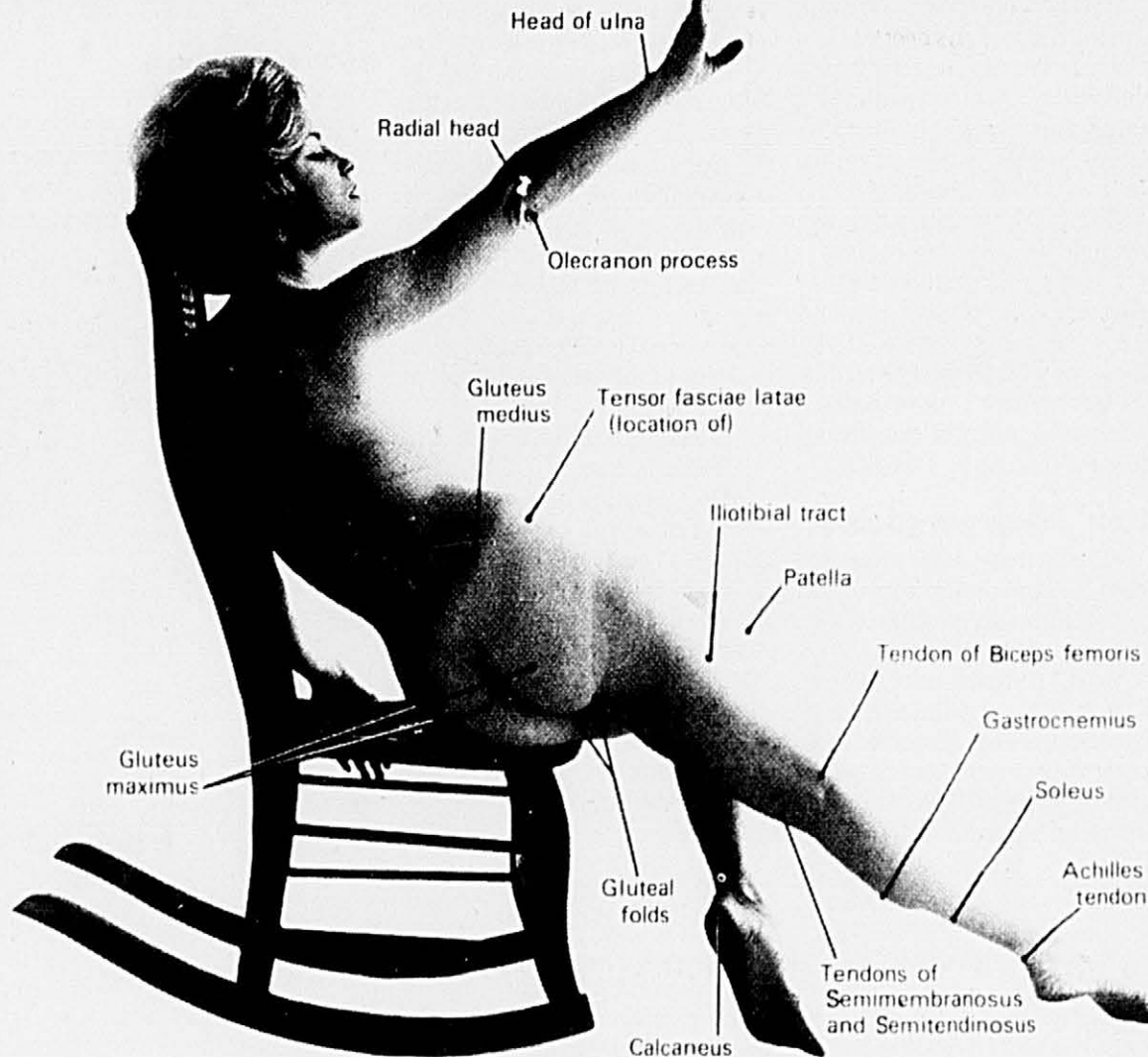


Fig. III-81. Surface anatomy of the female lower limb.

generally ignored by the medical profession.

## A Male-Created Science

Bringing change to health care is not easy, said Bégin, because of attitudes stemming from "the immense power of scientific medicine on health care."

Doctors tend to respond to public concerns by asserting that "lay people simplify issues. Only we know what is good for the patient," said Bégin.

She added that in defining women's health care needs, "Men, with a male created science, impose a definitive view of things they could never experience."

"The historical dimension [of sexism in medicine] is often ignored because of the rate of change of knowledge," said Bégin, "but feminist scholars believe that medicine inherits much from its past."

The title of Bégin's lecture was the Roman physician Galen's view of women as "Inside-out men."

Bégin said that historically, "the male body was studied as the norm, and the female body was seen as a set of deviances from that norm, not a norm in itself."

Denise Feil, a first-year medical student, and a member of the Women's Medical Society, agreed that a male-oriented perspective persists in Medicine. The Women's Medical Society is an association of McGill women medical students. Its goals are to raise awareness and educate about women's health issues.

"This morning we were told in class that the female pelvis was a modification of the male. And the physiology standard is the 70 kg

white male," said Feil. "The professor apologised for using [the 70 kg white male] but it is still the standard in all medical texts."

"In pathology, we spent almost a week on male hernias, but when it comes to the breast we have to look it up on our own. They separate the breast to gynaecology, while the inguinal canal is part of pathology."

"Sexism in medicine has been obvious and even vulgar," said Bégin, citing the anatomy textbook mentioned above as an example.

The textbook was removed from medical curricula, said Bégin, but "the reaction to the use of the textbook was that it was considered human error and in the past tense, rather than a reflection of sexism within the profession."

Sexism still exists in McGill Medical School, according to Feil.

"In Radiology we had a guest radiologist, who showed several X-rays in a row of a woman's uterus. There were some pictures with sharp objects in the uterus, and he said 'you can imagine that this was much easier to put in than to get out.' I was the only one not laughing."

"We have a system where we take turns to tape lectures and make notes for the other students," said Feil, "one student included a 'blonde joke,' which was: 'What do a turtle and a blonde have in common? When they are on their backs on the beach, they're both fucked.'"

## Fear of Feminism

Feil and a second-year medical student, Shabana Parvez, president of the Women's Medical Society, stressed that the attitudes displayed by many medical students were not the result of any bad intentions.

"A lot of them just don't have awareness of the issues," said Parvez.

Parvez and Feil said that there was a lot of pressure not to take sexist jokes seriously.

"People say 'Oh, you're so sensitive! It's only a joke, it's only a joke,' but just how far is it going to go?" said Parvez.

"There's a real stigma to being a feminist," said Feil, "A lot of women don't want to be identified with it. There are a lot of fears about being political."

Parvez said that many believe "the connotations of feminism now are very extreme, a total reverse of sexism, with total female domination."

## A Call for Change

Bégin called for more attention to women's health as a field in its own right.

"Maybe medicine should put its house in order in terms of the discipline," said Bégin, "The important body of women's health should be made part of biomedical education."

Dr. Richard Cruess, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, said he agreed with Bégin's ideas.

The curriculum of the medical school is currently under review, and the need for women's health to be addressed is on the agenda, said Cruess.

"I think it is probable that we are addressing women's health issues fairly well," he said, "but it is not possible to tell if we are looking at it well enough until we investigate."

"I think we've still got problems," added Cruess, "I think we also have made a considerable amount of progress. All you have to do is look at enrollment."

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Ami-Québec holds a support group meeting for parents, spouses, siblings and adult children of the mentally ill. 4333 Côte Ste. Catherine Road. 19h30. Info: 486-1448. FREE

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